THE EXCITER

Formerly Called Gutter Dope, Established in 1934.

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VHF AND UP

On 5 June in the evening when WWVH was sending U5 (fair conditions) and WWV N6 (fair to good), there was a good Es opening to California. K500J broke forth in CW and some practice, K5HVC and W5 KRH captured the west coast gang with their very clean and powerful NFM. K5SPQ was also heard going west.

Ducting was also taking place at the same time as Channels 2-13 were loaded with Gulf coast stations. The Houston page station, KKI445, on 35.58 mc. also came through. Whether this was by ducting or Es is not known as they often come through by Es. Ducting at this frequency is not easily accomplished as it calls for 35 mc. waveguide and that's not easy to come by, even in nature!

The elusive 40 story high research balloon passed north of SA on 7 June at 100K ft. It was transmitting weather by telemetry (nominally 2400 mc) as part of its 1600 lb. payload. It was observed as late as 2040 CST NW of the city with binoculars by W5PU.

The plastic balloon was due to drop its payload west of Houston but is still floating west of California even after Navy fighters shot it full of 20 mm. cannon holes!

The new information which WWV sends from the 2nd to 3rd min. of each 5 min. period is an experimental signal containing the day of the year, hr., min., and sec. This data is changed every second during the one minute data period. The purpose is to provide more precision timing between locations receiving WWV. No frequencies higher than 1000 cps are used.

MARS Net No. 4 at Kelly AFB meets on 49.98 mc. every Monday at 1930 CST. There are already 25 members active and more joining daily. Now's the time to operate outside the band—legally! Above info from K500J.

During the 11-12 June VHF QSO Party, W5HFF worked 81 stations in 16 ARRL sections on 50 mc., no doubt winning the award for So. Texas. Ross Lawler worked into double hop Es New England, Penna., N.Y., catching all areas except W6 and W7. Ross is quoted as saying, "Wow!" when he worked about 36 stations in San Antonio. Good luck and regards.

Cal Graf, W5LFM

MOBILE

W5VPQ recently had the pleasure of visiting the Laredo International Amateur Radio Society and meeting many amateurs from Laredo and old Mexico. One of the high points of the meeting was a report from several delegates from XE land on a new procedure for licensing of U. S. amateur mobiles in Mexico. A new Amateur organization is being formed and promises to speed up the processing of out of country applications. George W5 VPQ (Pe 2-0783) has club membership applications and rule books to facilitate obtaining permission to operate in Mexico.

Marge K5PIO visiting in San Antonio was looking for mobile contacts on 75. Her home QTH is Fort Worth.

A new Mobile on 75 is Fuzzy W5 FZN.

Gene W5EJT

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30TH ANNUAL WEST GULF CONVENTION

The West Gulf ARRL Convention attracted many amateurs from the San Antonio area. George W5VPQ and Johnny W5LVE formed a caravan on US 81 and kept busy switching from 3855 to 53mc and back, and finally contacted the US 281 contingent, W5's EJT, THU and FND somewhere beyond Waco. W5RT and JC were seen wandering around the dance floor Saturday night, but disappeared before the witching hour. The boys were all ready to adjourn to the local burleque after the dance, but were vetoed by W5's KQG, WXT, TSE and K5OPT and some unlicensed xyl's.

W5VPQ participated in the transmitter hunt but after rebuilding the loop 17 times and getting lost in the Dallas dump gave up in ignominious defeat. Quite a bit of GE business was transacted as W50IK found some of his partners in crime to palaver with. W5LLS was representing 4th Army Mars. and W5UB was seen inconspicuously peddling printed circuits to unwary hams.

Everyone returned by different routes and at different times, but we all enjoyed ragchews with other hams along the highway.

See you all in Kerrville next year!

GUTTER DOPE

New generals in town are K5ZIJ, Dale and K5VRO, Skippy. Skippy made the famous Ragchewers Club as a novice.

W5EJT is the proud owner of a Collins 75A4 with which to chase more DX (he hopes).

K5OPT, Ruth received her DX-YL award Certificate No. 56 which is issued by YLRL for working 25 YL's. YL's.

Attention is called to the article in July QST on the operation of FM gear on vhf amateur bands.

Cole W5DKF has a car for mobile equipment only. How about that?

Wonder where all those tents came from on Woodlawn Island this Field Day?

How did George W5VPQ manage to work mobile to New Mexico without Ella W5TSE?

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FIELD DAY

The San Antonio Radio Club participated in the annual Field Day Event again this year, at the same location that they have used for the past several years; that being Woodlawn Lake.

The troops started arriving early on Saturday morning in the drizzling rain and started to set up the equipment. The rain had started the day before, and really poured all night. The boys were making good progress in setting up the tents and power plants, and power lines to the various stations when the Helicopter arrived.

This was the first public demonstration of the handling ability of the new Jet-Helicopter. This was furnished the San Antonio Radio Club by Brooke Army Medical Center out at Ft. Sam Houston. The publicity value of having the Helicopter was dampened to a great extent, to say the least, by the rain that continued to fall until about five o'clock Saturday afternoon.

From the looks of things as The Exciter goes to press, we did better this year than we did last year. We improved on just about all bands.

The San Antonio Police Department Amateur Radio Club set up their equipment to work Field Day, on the hill at Devine Road and Hildebrand. They were operating three xmitters and receivers from emergency power plants, and worked on four bands.. They used the call W5SRO, and worked more than 500 contacts. They were using a doublet antenna and a long vertical among the devious means of squirting their signals through the Ether.

The six meter club set up for field day activities in the northwest part of San Antonio. Sixty Six contacts were made during the test period. The operators that participated were, K5's PWX, AIU, HVC, RWJ, QPR, VGD, UBP. The station operated under the call of K5AIU.

The Field Day activities of the Alamo Heights Amateur Radio Club was a real test for the boys this year. The day started off with a locked gate to the operating site. Then very wet grounds and a drowned out generator ended the operation in the field. The group looked for a drier spot and more reliable Power to continue their Field Day Activities. The Club operated under the Call K5PPZ.

SILENT KEYS

Mary C. Carmack K5PDI

Mary C. Hauser was born August 8, 1918 to Catherine and John Hauser and was educated here in San Antonio, graduating from San Antonio Tech High School. Mary was a member of South San Antonio Chapter 691 Order of the Eastern Star and St. Mark's Methodist Church. Mary received her amateur radio license in March of 1959 and was a charter member of the "ALAMO YLS."

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She is survived by her husband Willard W5FND and three children.

Mary was a very stabilizing factor in her family, as well as in the social activities in which she was engaged. Her absence will be felt a great deal more than her presence was, because she was never one to try to force her opinions on anyone, but you could always depend upon some good advice if you called upon her for it.

Mary passed away early Monday morning June 6th at her home at 302 Lemur.

DX NOTES

Band conditions have been surprisingly good considering that it's Summertime and that we are on the downhill side of the sunspot peak. Fifteen has been open almost daily, and some of those S9 European Signals sound like "next door." Peak hours to Europe are generally from 9 AM to 1 PM local time, with Asia, Oceania and South America peaking in the afternoon or evening. Twenty meters seem to open promptly at 6 AM and to remain good all day until nearly midnight. Ten is in its usual Summer doldrums, but South American signals can be heard in the late afternoons.

Most of the local gang has now worked Danny Weid's Yasme III DX-pedition on Baja Nuevo Island; call HK0AA. Since there is a strong possibility that this Isle will receive new country recognition, the pile-ups were something to long remember. Baja Nuevo is about 140 miles SW of Jamaica. Coming up soon on Danny's itinerary are stops at HC8 and a try at Malpelo.

How do I get stared in DX? This often asked question has many answers, but one good way is to try 15 meter C. W. Low power and modest antennas work well on 15. You will need to do

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lots of listening, and when you hear one you'd like to work, call him within 3 KC of his frequency, but not Zero Beat.

Short calls are best, a 2X2 combination will get many more answers than longer calls. Don't be afraid of sending slowly. A slow distinct transmission will give best results, and DX stations are happy to QRS if you're having trouble copying. Don't take up the DX station's time giving your mail address or asking for his. Ninety-five percent of all DX QSL's go via the bureaus, so use them, and keep an envelope on file with the W5 bureau for your incoming cards. If the one you work is a new country for you; tell him so. It's always a pleasure to be someone's first, and the DX station will usually make sure that you get that QSL. Give it a try, you've nothing to lose but your blues. So 73 & DX!

Len, W5LGG

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